(b) whether PETA (People of the Ethical Treatment of Animals), the US based group has launched its campaign with an international denunciation of die Indian Leather trade by saying mat in a land where sows are "Sacred" thousand are subjected to agonising abuse to serve the learner industry, which exports to US, Britain among other countries; and

(e) if so, what is die reaction of the Govemment of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government a aware of the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated Htm February 2000. PETA (People of die Ethical Treatment of Animate) which is a US based animal lights organisation, has launched campaigns ui different countries against wearing of articles made of fur and learner. India being toe of die major producers of leather, does find a mention ia their campaign.

(c) The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) which sine nodal agency for exports has prepared a action plan to make users of leader products aware of the correct facts. CLE, among other dungs, also intend to use international television networks far exhibiting films on tbe subject.

Selling of Government stakes in MRL and BRPL

1101. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are likely to sell its stakes in Madras Refineries Ltd., (MRL) and BRPL to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. before March, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) the matter is under consideration of die Government.